

US 93 FISH AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

26. Pistol Creek #2 Wildlife Crossing St. Ignatius Segment

The creek is currently enclosed in a small culvert underneath 25' - 30' of fill. Livestock graze upstream. The creek is in close proximity to the National Bison Range which increases this area's appeal for wildlife crossings. Wildlife crossings could be enhanced with restoration of vegetative cover.

Design Recommendations

Recommended crossing type: *Corrugated metal pipe or concrete box culvert*

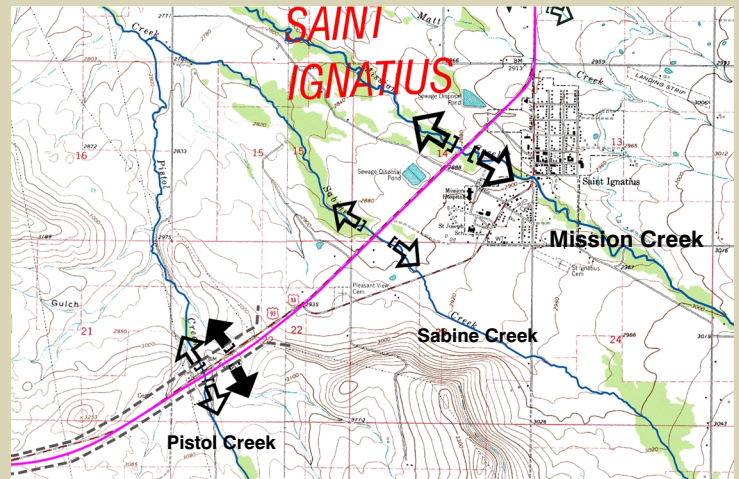
Approximate dimensions: 12' x 22'

Notes:

End 8' page wire fencing northeast of Pistol Creek #2 in a wing pattern (45 degrees to road and approx. 150' in length). Begin fencing at the curve coming out of Ravalli.

Criteria for locations of crossings:

1. **Winter Tracking** - NA.
2. **Summer Game Trails** - NA.
3. **Road Kill Data** - Tribal data from 1/95-10/98 combined with MDT data from 12/97-1/00 indicated 1 kill in this area.
4. **Habitat** - Good riparian habitat and grasslands north of the highway. Wildlife (including deer, bears, and mountain lions) have been observed in areas both north and south of this location.
5. **Engineering Practicality** - Currently the highway sits atop fill. Removal of a portion, or all, of the fill would create a substantial opening that could be used by wildlife.



US 93 DESIGN DISCUSSIONS

Project Committee:

Evart to Polson, Montana

Montana Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

Prime Consultant: Skillings-Connolly, Inc. - Consulting Engineers

